

REMARKS

The Examiner objects to the drawings.

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Lim et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,081,460). The Examiner rejects claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim. The Examiner rejects claims 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,633,504). The Examiner rejects claims 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim in view of Shakkarwar (U.S. Pat. No. 5,822,766 [sic]).

The applicants amend claims 1 and 5 to clarify the invention recited. Claims 1-8 remain in the case.

The Applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings as lacking an apparatus to support the recited method claims. The Applicants believe the structure to support the apparatus is clearly shown in the application, e.g., in Figures 11 and 12. The Applicants believe no new or amended drawings are necessary.

Claim Rejections Under § 112

The Examiner rejects claims 1-8 because the claims lack structural cooperative relationships of elements. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

MPEP § 2172.01 requires essential claim elements to “interrelate.” Claim 1 recites a method comprising *receiving a mode set command* and *generating a control signal in response to the received mode set command*. Claim 1, thus, interrelates the receiving element with the generating element. Claim 5 recites a method comprising *receiving a precharge command, receiving a mode set command... after receipt of the precharge command*, and *generating a control signal in response to the received mode set command*. Claim 5, thus, also interrelates the receiving a precharge command element with the receiving a mode set command element (after the precharge command), and with the generating element. Dependent claims 2-4 and 6-8 likewise recited interrelated elements. No claim is indefinite

for lack of reciting interrelated essential claim elements. The Applicants ask the Examiner to clarify his rejection.

Claim Rejections Under § 102

The Examiner finds all the elements recited in claims 1 and 2 in Lim. The Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 1 recites receiving a mode set command and generating a control signal responsive to the received mode set command. The Examiner alleges receiving a mode set command is taught by Lim through "receiving a mode set command (e.g., test mode, refresh mode, col. 4, line 33)." This command is the PMODE signal. (col. 4, line 33). The Examiner goes on to allege generating a control signal responsive to the received mode set command is taught by Lim through "generating a control signal (PMODE) is response to the received mode set command..." The Examiner appears to suggest that the PMODE signal is therefore generated responsive to it. Claim 1, on the other hand, recites a mode set command that is distinct from its control signal.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 5 and 6 as obvious over Lim. The Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection.

The patentability arguments presented for claim 1 apply equally to claim 5. And claim 5 recites receiving a precharge command for precharging the semiconductor memory device. The Examiner likens Lim's Ai signal to the recited precharge command. But Lim's Ai signal is an address signal and not a precharge command as recited. And Lim discloses generating the Ai signal while claim 5 recites receiving a precharge command. Lim makes no mention of a precharge command or precharging a memory device.

The Examiner rejects claims 3 and 7 as obvious over Lim in view of Lee. The Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection. The patentability arguments presented for claims 1 and 5 apply equally to claims 3 and 7.

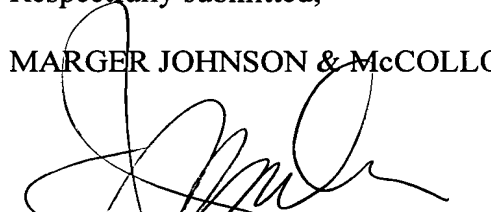
The Examiner rejects claims 4 and 8 as obvious over Lim in view of Shakkarwar. The Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection. The Examiner cites Shakkarwar as U.S. Patent No. 5,822,766. This patent number is to Purdham and not Shakkarwar. The column and line numbers cited in the rejection do not appear, however, to correspond to Purdham. The Applicants request the Examiner identify the patent by number and name associated with this rejection in a non-final office action.

Conclusion

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all claims as amended. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graciela G. Cowger', is written over a horizontal line.

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